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Press Item for the DCI

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(FOREIGN AID)

WASHINGTON --COMPTROLLER GENERAL ELMER B. STAATS RULED TODAY THAT MILITARY AID TO FOREIGN NATIONS MUST STOP SEPT. 1 UNLESS THE ADMINISTRATION RESPONDS TO A CONGRESSIONAL REQUEST FOR ITS LONG-RANGE ASSISTANCE PLANS.

STAATS SIDED WITH THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE WHICH VOTED TO INVOKE A LITTLE-KNOWN SECTION OF THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT THAT TERMINATES AID UNLESS THE ADMINISTRATION COMPLIES.

UNDER THE STAATS RULING, THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT MUST EITHER PROVIDE THE COMMITTEE WITH ITS FIVE-YEAR PLAN FOR THE MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM OR PRESIDENT NIXON MUST FORMALLY CERTIFY HIS REASONS FOR DENYING THE REQUEST.

IF THE ADMINISTRATION FAILS TO TAKE EITHER STEP WITHIN 35 DAY OF THE COMMITTEE'S UNANIMOUS VOTE JULY 28 ALL MILITARY ASSISTANCE MUST BE SUSPENDED.

IN A LETTER TO CHAIRMAN J. WILLIAM FULBRIGHT, D-ARK., STAATS SAID "UPON WRITTEN NOTIFICATION FROM YOUR COMMITTEE THAT THE 35-DAY PERIOD HAS PASSED AND THAT NEITHER THE LATEST FIVE-YEAR PLAN NOR AN APPROPRIATE PRESIDENTIAL CERTIFICATION HAS BEEN RECEIVED, WE WILL IMMEDIATELY ADVISE THE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE, STATE AND TREASURY THAT UNTIL SUCH TIME AS THE REQUESTED DOCUMENTS ARE FURNISHED OR THE PRESIDENT MAKES AN APPROPRIATE CERTIFICATION THAT THEY MAY NOT BE FURNISHED, FUNDS FOR THE ENTIRE MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE FOR FURTHER OBLIGATION OR EXPENDITURE."

STAATS' RULING GAVE THE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE A CLEAR-CUT VICTORY IN THE CONTINUING CLASH OVER THE AVAILABILITY OF EXECUTIVE DOCUMENTS.

THE COMPTROLLER GENERAL REJECTED THE POSITION OF DEFENSE SECRETARY LAIRD WHO SAID IN A LETTER, AUG. 6, TO FULBRIGHT THAT IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO IDENTIFY A SPECIFIC DOCUMENT WHICH WOULD SATISFY THE COMMITTEE'S REQUEST.

8-18--NW112PED

Comment. Maury has a copy.

Senate 'Consultants' Sniff

By MILES BENSON

WASHINGTON — (NNS) — In the paneled dignity of the Foreign Relations Committee hearing room, James G. Lowenstein and Richard M. Moose look like a pair of mild-mannered Senate aides in horn-rimmed glasses.

They are carried on the Senate staff rosters as "consultants."

But in the past two years these "consultants," congressional sources say, have been dragged in Phnom Penh, shadowed by goons in Athens and nearly spilled from a helicopter over Vietnam.

They have stolen secrets from the Central Intelligence Agency, unsettled the aplomb of numerous generals and ambassadors, the sources say, and uncovered a war Congress didn't know about.

THE HARD-DRIVING pair work for Sen. J. William Fulbright, D-Ark., chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations committee, who sends them out to the world's hot spots to dig out information the administration can't, or won't, give Congress.

They have written five detail-crammed reports on what is really going on in Greece, Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos — the last so sensitive that the entire Senate went into a secret session last June 7 to discuss what Moose and Lowenstein reported.

That report disclosed for the first time the extent of U. S. war efforts in Laos, a war many congressmen said they had been unaware of.

UNTIL recently the two investigators worked in almost total anonymity, which they are now struggling to maintain. Their names, however, are appearing more frequently in news stories. Television news panel shows, sniffing international intrigue, are after them for appearances, which they refuse.

Lowenstein, 44, a short stocky tennis player, never travels without his racket. The son of a Long Branch, N.J., stockbroker, he attended Yale University and Harvard Law school, spent three years in the Navy and 10 years into the Foreign Service before joining the Foreign Relations Committee staff.

Moose, 39, from Little Rock, Ark., drives a battered red Volkswagen around Washington when

he isn't jetting around the world. He majored in history and political science at Columbia University and Hendrix College. Like Lowenstein, Moose put in 10 years in the Foreign Service and then was named to the staff of the National Security Council in 1966, working under Walt Rostow, President Johnson's adviser on national security affairs and an architect of the Vietnam war.

Moose spent two years with Rostow, left in mid-1968 to join the Institute for Defense Analyses, a private think-tank, and returned to the White House in 1969 as staff secretary to the National Security Council under Henry Kissinger, switching to Fulbright's staff a year later.

SENATE colleagues talk about Moose and Lowenstein with a mixture of envy and respect.

"They're good," said one, "because they're very sharp and they know from the inside how our missions operate overseas. They know the kinds of questions to ask, the people that they should see and where the bodies are likely to be buried. They have a trained nose for what smells fishy."

On a mission for Fulbright, they work as a team interviewing high and low U. S. officials on the scene, newsmen, officials of the nation they are visiting as well as unofficial sources.

They also have a lot of friends on embassy staffs from their own foreign service days who often provide them with inside information.

Out U.S. Secrets